

DUXBURY HISTORY FILE  
REFERENCE

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Jeff Grey, instructor

# PIECE by PIECE

## Duxbury program teaching teens how to build boats, oars

By KENDRA JOHNSON  
The Patriot Ledger

Last week, 14-year-old Gabriel Fiorini didn't know the first thing about building a boat. Now he's helping to build a skiff and making his own oars.

Fiorini is one of the students in the new boatbuilding class for teenagers offered by the Duxbury Bay Maritime School.

Students are building a 10-foot flat-bottomed skiff, designed by Duxbury resident Gordon Tucker, and sets of oars they will keep.

"These guys are picking it right up," said instructor Jeff Grey. "We try to get them doing as much as possible."

The second and last two-week session started Monday and will conclude with a launching of the boat, which was sold in a silent auction to benefit the school.

Grey, the owner of Snug Harbor Boatworks, and apprentice Jon Daley teach the course. Grey leases space on the school's property for his boatyard, where the class



Gabriel Fiorini, 14, eyes the edge of an oar.

is taught. There were five students in the first session and seven in the second.

The group meets daily for 2½ hours. The class is scheduled during low tide because some of the students take sailing classes during high tide.

Many of the students had not taken any woodworking courses before signing up for the summer class.

"I'm enjoying it," Fiorini said. "Some things I'm good at and some things I'm not."

Fiorini said he found the bandsaw "big and intimidating," but the work has been easier than it seemed in the beginning.

Jeff Gorham, 15, of Marshfield, had a bit more experience with the tools, having taken woodworking courses at school.

"It's all pretty easy," Gorham said. "I like building things and I've been into boating all my life."

Pembroke resident Joan Wool said she encouraged her son, William, 14, to take the course and was impressed with the instruction and the oars that her son built.

He listed the tools he used: jigsaw, power drill, mallets, planes.

"You could do everything with your hands," William Wool said.

Joan Wool, a business teacher at Marshfield High School, said many students learn best through hands-on activities.

"This type of learning is a very active, engaging type of a class," she said. "It's perfect for their age."

Grey said he hopes to extend the program into the fall and winter. School director Ned Lawson said there may be a winter kayak-building class for parents and their children. The school also may eventually offer a boat-restoration course.

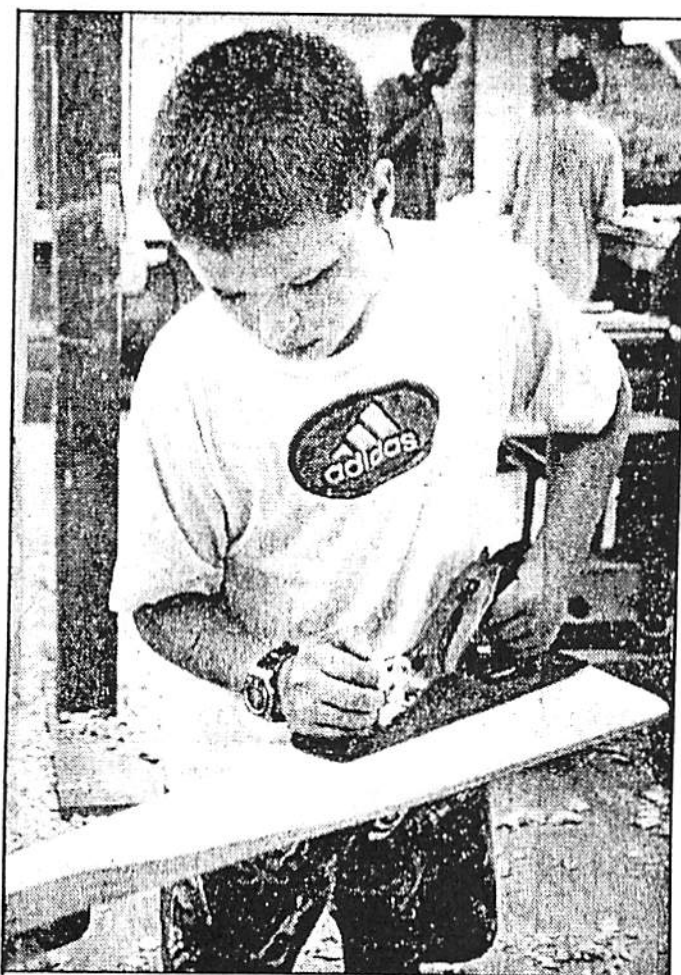
The other new class offered this summer is a marine ecology course. The last session ends next week. Nearly 70 youths have participated in the program, which

explores marine life, salt marshes, tidal pools and watersheds.

"I think the kids like it," Lawson said. "They get their feet muddy and their hands dirty."

Wendell Cerne, a Silver Lake High School biology teacher and Duxbury resident, directs the program.

Lawson said there may be a marine ecology class for adults next summer.



At left, Will Robinson, 13, of Duxbury, uses a plane to shave down his oar.

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Instructor Jeff Grey, above, center, teaches boatbuilding skills to, from left, Nathan Forbes, 15, of Pembroke; Jeff Gorham, 15, of Marshfield; and Rick Therrien, 15, of Duxbury.